

Wegis Ranch

12816 Jomani Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93309

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December 27, 2012

Dr. Karl Longley, Chair
Jon Costantino, Vice Chair
Sandra Meraz, Board Member
Jennifer Moffitt, Board Member
Carmen Ramirez, Board Member
Robert Schneider, Board Member
Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer
Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Re: Comments of Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority re: draft "Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Discharges from Irrigated Lands Within the Central Valley Region for Dischargers not Participating in a Third-Party Group" (November 2012 draft)

Dear Board Chair, Vice Chair, Members, Ms. Creedon and Mr. Rodgers:

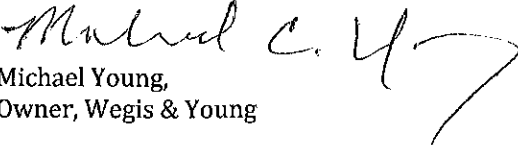
As an interested grower in Kern County, I am highly concerned with the proposed Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and the upcoming draft "Individual Order" that may greatly impact my farming operation.

The proposed individual order will have grave consequences to the viability of my farm, my workforce and our community. The cost of compliance with the individual order is not sustainable and will force many smaller growers out of business.

I am fully supportive of, and incorporate by reference, the comments sent by the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority ("KRWCA"), dated January 10, 2013. Kern County has demonstrated that its water and nutrient application efficiencies are some of the highest in the state. Furthermore, based upon information provided by the KRWCA, it appears that the monitoring and reporting requirements will have little value given the depth to water and transport times, among other factors. With this understanding, I urge you to develop a scientific and results based regulation which will have the desired benefit of improved groundwater quality

As a farmer, I take pride in the conservation and efficient use of water, fertilizers and other products required to grow my crop. Market forces demand this. The financial burden associated with unreasonable regulatory oversight and compliance will compromise agriculture's ability to compete in a global market and may drive agriculture, like so many other industries, out of the state of California.

Sincerely,


Michael Young,
Owner, Wegis & Young